



State of New Hampshire  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

6 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095

(603) 271-3406 FAX (603) 271-7894



March 3, 2003

**Letter of Deficiency**

DSP# 03-018

Ms. Dorothy Wagner  
Sawyers Mills Association Inc  
One Mill Street  
Dover, NH 03820

RE: Sawyers Mills Lower Dam #067.08, Dover

Dear Ms. Wagner:

The Department of Environmental Services, Dam Bureau (DES) consistently strives to enhance the safety of dams in New Hampshire through its dam safety program. One of the many instruments that play a part in reaching this goal is our inspection program. DES is forwarding this correspondence to you to advise you that in accordance with RSA 482:12 and Env-Wr 502.02, an inspection of the subject dam was conducted on October 31, 2001. During this visual inspection and/or file review, the following deficiencies were observed:

- There appears to be a buildup of sediments upstream of the dam. Due to the lack of a pond drain removal would have to be performed via siphoning and dredging;
2. There were many open joints in the granite stonework, allowing flow to enter and further erode the walls;
  3. Seepage and leakage was noted through the stonework of the spillway;
  4. There was minor brush within 10 feet of the right earthen embankment;
  5. The right earthen embankment may be subject to erosion during overtopping events;
  6. It is unclear whether the reported 36-inch penstocks exist and could be used as low-level outlets;
  7. The Emergency Action Plan (EAP) needs to be updated and a test of the EAP notification flowchart needs to be conducted; and
  8. There is no operation and maintenance plan (O&M) on file with the DES.

DES believes that the above deficiencies can be corrected by performing the following items by the indicated schedule:

**June 1, 2003:**

1. Verify whether the reported 36-inch penstocks exist and could be used as low-level outlets;
2. Update the EAP and conduct a test of the EAP notification flowchart. Please contact Bethann McCarthy at 271-4167 before updating your EAP, for assistance in determining what changes may be necessary;

Letter of Deficiency  
Dam #067.08/DSP #03-018  
March 3, 2003  
pg 2

3. Prepare and submit to the DES a written O&M plan. The plan should describe the control of impoundment levels, monitoring and maintenance procedures, and identify emergency contact personnel. Refer to the enclosed guidelines;
4. Remove the minor brush within 10 feet of the right earthen embankment;

**October 1, 2003:**

5. Submit a schedule and plans to remove the buildup of sediments upstream of the dam;
6. Re-point the many open joints in the granite stonework, allowing flow to enter and further erode the walls; and
7. Armour the right earthen embankment that is subject to erosion during overtopping events.

DES is requesting that you complete and submit the attached "Intent to Complete Repairs" form, within 30 days of receipt of this letter, that will provide for correction of the identified deficiencies by the date(s) indicated above. If you believe changes to the items of work or dates are necessary, please make the changes directly on the form and provide a brief explanation. We have enclosed a self addressed stamped envelope for you to return this form.

Our intent in sending you this correspondence is to make you aware of items that DES believes warrant your attention to insure the continued safe operation of your dam. It is our hope that, through the submittal of the attached form and a commitment to keeping a well-maintained dam, you will voluntarily comply with the requested items of work. If we do not receive the intent form or a similarly adequate written reply, we will assume that you are in agreement with our findings and recommendations and DES will carry out follow-up inspections accordingly.

Due to the untimely nature of this correspondence in relation to the actual date of the dam safety inspection we will be conducting another inspection of the dam in the spring of 2003 and will contact you prior to the visit. However, the deficiencies noted are still pertinent to the overall maintenance and safety of the dam.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this Letter of Deficiency or would like to be present at future inspections, please contact me at 271-3406, or write to the Water Division at the address listed on the top of the previous page.

Sincerely,

**COPY**  
*Grace E. Levergood*  
Grace E. Levergood, P.E.  
Dam Safety Engineer

Attachments Guideline for an O&M plan, DB8, DB13

cc: Gretchen Rule  
City of Dover

Bethann McCarthy, P.E., EAP Coordinator

Certified # 1000 1670 0000 0586 1674

GEL/was/h:/safety/wendy/lod/067-08lod.doc